

Nobody loves a landlord, as the saying goes; and The Star was probably playing the popular game when, during the war, it belligerently urged enforcement of federal rent control in this area.

It may not be so popular today to oppose rent control, but that we do, because the facts justify our position — now as then. Back in war days the government had forbidden construction of new houses, which created a monopoly in the housing which already existed. Therefore rent control was justified — as an arbitrary action to correct another action, and both of them due entirely to the emergency of war. But the war is over, there is no embargo on home construction, and no reason but a political one for even arguing that rent control should be continued.

I mention the foregoing because the well-known downtown rent control bill which was finally put through Congress and signed yesterday represents an absolutely new law for the prestige of President Truman. We now know there is no political trick to which the White House palace guard wouldn't stoop — and the only reason that wartime rent control wasn't kept in full force was because the congress remained faithful to American principles and succeeded in pulling most of the bill's teeth.

It is obvious, of course, that Mr. Truman feels he is favoring union labor by attempting to destroy property rights and enforcing wartime rent control when the nation actually is at peace — because labor is supposed to be a class of renters rather than property owners. But this is a dangerous assumption for two reasons: (1) Because it is a generalization and only half true, and (2) because it is a frank attempt to "sell" the American people on the idea that their standard of living is frozen and no opportunity will ever be offered for future advancement.

What no man should overlook is the fact that as long as the federal government claims the power to control wartime rents the speculative construction of new homes will be discouraged. Every man sometimes hopes to have a house of his own. His main chance to get one at reasonable figure is in a plentiful market — but there'll be no plentiful market while the White House palace guard plays politics with worn-out war legislation.

They tell us that in bankrupt France where politicians have maintained rent control ever since World War I private construction of new homes has vanished alto-

gether. America already grown so ancient and bankrupt that a citizen must sell off his dream of a house of his own just for the sake of a politician's rent law?

# Hope Star

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HOPE, ARKANSAS, FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1949

## WEATHER FORECAST

Arkansas: Cloudy this afternoon, Saturday. Not much change in temperatures. Showers Sunday afternoon.

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## Business Slump Leaves Gloomiest Picture

Washington, April 1 — (P) — A survey of business spending plans today posted some fairly gloomy signs for the last half of 1949. However, government economists said that this index, which has forecast economic busts in the past, is risking its reputation for accuracy.

The collective bet of American businessmen on the future was posted in their plans for spending on new factories and equipment. Clearly, they figure that things are going to be sliding down through the final months of the year.

The survey, by two government agencies, pointed to business' decision to cutback outlays in last half of 1949 by 14 per cent under last year. The theory is that prospects for profits would be poorer.

First-half 1949 factory and equipment buying, however, will rise five per cent above the same period of 1948's record high — at least partly because of a lot of plant construction that couldn't be halted on short notice.

While businessmen's expectations have correctly given advance signals on economic storms in the past, government economists said they'll bear discounting this time for such reasons as these:

1. Government spending — state and local, as well as federal — will increase sharply. It will more than offset the indicated \$800,000,000 drop in business spending for 1949 as a whole.

2. Businessmen probably will spend more on plant expansion in first half-1949 than they admitted in the survey. Past experience shows they're conservative and wary of future spending, prone to underestimate.

The "business bet" on the future however, not only serves to indicate what's coming. It also has a part in inclining the future to fit its forecast. This is how:

The billions spent by private business on expansion represents money that would otherwise go to other industries apparently counterbalanced the effect of further layoffs in other sectors of the economy.

Shortly before the bureau issued the report, Secretary of Commerce Sawyer gave the figures to president Truman and the cabinet at a White House meeting.

Sawyer told reporters later it looks to him as if the upturn in employment has been encouraged. He said also it is encouraging that there had been no further drop in employment, but an actual increase in employment.

The 54,000 decline in unemployment from February's postwar peak left the total number of people out of work and hunting jobs 3,167,000 — still 727,000 higher than at this time last year.

The number employed totaled 7,647,000. While up 479,000 from February, it was only 318,000 above March, 1948.

## Unemployment in U. S. Drops During March

Washington, April 1 — (P) — The number of unemployed dropped 54,000 in March after rising during each of the four previous months, the census bureau reported today.

Simultaneously, the number of employed increased 479,000 in March. This checked a decline in March in the number of people holding jobs.

The apparently favorable developments were explained by the bureau in these words:

"A seasonal expansion in employment in agriculture and some other industries apparently counterbalanced the effect of further layoffs in other sectors of the economy."

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## Tension in Cab Strike Mounts

New York, April 1 — (P) — A tension-filled taxicab strike started today. As the morning rush hour began, 701 cabs were reported cruising city streets under the protection of 3,000 extra police.

A police department survey at 8 a.m. showed 421 fleet taxicabs and 280 independents operating over special safety lanes designed by police.

The city has more than 11,000 cabs. Police were uncertain how many normally operate during the morning hours but it was obvious that far fewer were rolling than usual.

There were no immediate reports of violence in the strike, started by the union in its bid for recognition as bargaining agent for the drivers. Union officials had threatened that not a "wheel would roll" once the strike order went out.

The diplomats here pushed ahead at full speed on plans for unifying the non-Communist west to build up its total military and economic power against any possible Soviet aggression.

The latest development on this front came when the state department announced that Secretary of State Acheson would receive British Foreign Minister Bevin and French Foreign Minister Schuman jointly later in the day.

Indications were that the foreign ministers of the three Western powers had determined to make an immediate start on discussions of their differences over the control and future development of western Germany.

Seven men were arrested in the early hours of the walk out. Four were charged with disorderly conduct in the threatened intimidation of a non-striking driver. Three other drivers were arrested in Brooklyn when they disregarded a policeman's order to move on.

Both sides predicted bloody violence by the other. Strike director Lee Zwicker charged that guns had been passed out to "seab drivers" in Harlem and "other dangerous areas."

Speakers for both the union and the operators said "skull-cracking goons" had been imported to battle on the streets.

**'Swoose' Swoops to Final Landing**

Chicago, April 1 — (P) — The Swoose, famous war-scarred B-17 flying fortress which saw action from Pearl Harbor to VJ Day swooped to its last landing yesterday.

The Swoose, with her original crew of five aboard, was flown to Douglas Airport to take its place in the Chicago branch of the Smithsonian Institution's national air museum.

"This is the end of the line," said Col. Frank Kurtz, original combat pilot of the Swoose. The craft was officially turned over to Walter M. Madgett, squadron leader and his assistants Harlan Friesenher and Harold Walker will discuss plans for participating in the Scout Exposition which will be held at Fair Park May 2. It is every important that all members attend the meeting.

The board of directors are Dr. F. C. Crow, John B. Lowe, W. A. Madgett, W. P. Handegard, and Jim LaGrossa, all Kiwanians.

Previously reported \$4,000.41

Grand Total \$4,022.41

## Arkansas Pilot Ill in N. C. Crash

Fort Bragg, N.C., April 18(2) — An Air Force C-47 transport plane crashed near Pope Field here yesterday killing three officers.

The Fort Bragg public information office said the plane crashed and burned as it attempted an emergency landing in a field near the Pope base officers' club.

Victims, all based at Pope field, were identified as First Lt. Allen A. Hall, Jr., pilot, Eldorado, Ark.; Second Lt. Kenneth W. Thompson, co-pilot, Route 13, Milwaukee, Wis., and Second Lt. J.M. Petrie of Cheverly, Md.

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## Officials for City Election Are Named

An official list of election officials for the general election to be held in the city of Hope Tuesday, April 15, follows: Ward 1 Judges: Duane D. Booth, I. T. Bell, W. M. Brummett.

Clerks: Jim Cole, J. A. Embree, Sheriff: H. D. Coffman.

Ward 2 Judges: G. W. McDowell, W. H. Allen, J. A. McLarty, Clerks: H. A. Fisk, Dwight Ridgill, Sheriff: A. E. Mack.

Ward 3 Judges: H. A. Watson, Clyde Zinn, W. A. Wray, Clerks: Mrs. H. B. Barr, Mrs. Comer Boyett, Sheriff: F. P. Holt.

Ward 4 Judges: W. P. Hardgrave, Carl Smith, Arch Moore, Clerks: Mrs. W. W. Compton, Mrs. Syd McMath, Sheriff: W. H. Schneiders.

At least one governor, James Big Jim Folsom of Alabama, has made it plain he will support any move by the state legislature for state-wide decontrol. This is permitted by the new law.

The stubborn housing shortage in big industrial centers leads some officials to predict that many major cities will wish to keep controls beyond the expiration date.

But even the harshest advocates of federal control believe it may be next to impossible to get another act through congress in 1949, and few states so far have standing laws for use when federal ceilings end.

## DYRS LEADING

Paragould, April 1 — (P) — Prohibition apparently is returning to Greene county.

With all except one small precinct reported from a local option election yesterday, the vote was:

For continued legal liquor sales 2,044; against liquor sales 2,101.

Repenting the phrase, "these thirteen men in the Kremlin are aiming to bring down the world,"

the government has been awaiting the results of the election.

They hope to be the absolute masters of their fellow-countrymen and Churchill said their "missionaries pay off old scores."

"Three years ago," Churchill said, "I spoke at Fulton, Missouri, under the auspices of President Truman.

"Many people here and in my own country were startled and even shocked by what I said.

The trustees are trying to arrange a private sale, rather than to invite a public auction with all the attendant fanfare. They are not anxious to raise up all the old tragedies that have dogged the McLean family since the late Edward Beale McLean bought the ill-starred Hope diamond in 1912 as a honeymoon gift for his bride.

So far, Werts is the only vocal bidder. He said he intends to submit a formal offer to the trustees this week. He wouldn't say how much he was prepared to pay, or how much that doesn't think the appraised value — \$600,000 — is a very steep figure for a collection like the McLean gems.

The Soviet note to the originators of the Atlantic pact said it is "directed against the Soviet union" is "openly aggressive" in character.

It has "nothing in common either with the tasks of self-defense of the parties to the treaty or with the real recognition of the aims and principles of the United Nations organization," the memorandum charged.

The pact, the note asserted, violates existing treaties between Britain and Russia, France and Russia, and the Potsdam and Yalta agreements.

## Keep Money Says Legal Experts

New York, April 1 — (UP) — Legal experts said today the friends, relatives and debtors of missing Banker Richard H. Crowe, who received \$76,355 from him, may keep the money unless the National City bank can identify the \$5,100 in safe bills.

The FBI has impounded all the money which the handsome, 41-year-old banker left behind him in an addressed envelope and mailed from somewhere in Florida.

Crowe disappeared Sunday, one day before \$883,681 in cash and negotiable bonds was discovered missing from the branch bank where he was assistant manager.

A spokesman for the FBI said the courts would have to decide whether Lloyd's of London, which insured the bank, or those who received the money would be the lawful owners.

Lawyers said, however, that on the assumption Crowe might have obtained the money legitimately, it would be up to the bank or insurance company to prove that the bills were the same ones taken from the bank.

Crowe has mailed \$61,380 in cash to friends, relatives and business institutions which he owned money.

Edward Scheidt, head of the FBI office in New York, also disclosed the recovery of \$14,075 in two envelopes from the Staten Island branch of Crowe's parents.

In the envelopes addressed to his mother and aunt, Crowe asked "forgiveness" for what he had done and said the money was to repay debts owed.

His parents, who had been vacationing in Florida since last October, were reported en route back to New York today.

Crowe said the money recovered so far amounted to 39 per cent of the \$193,680 in cash which Crowe is suspected of looting from the bank where he was a trusted employee for 18 years. He also is accused of taking \$59,000 in negotiable bonds and a \$100,000 non-negotiable bond.

Crowe's wife disclosed that she had received a letter from Jacksonville, Fla., from her husband.

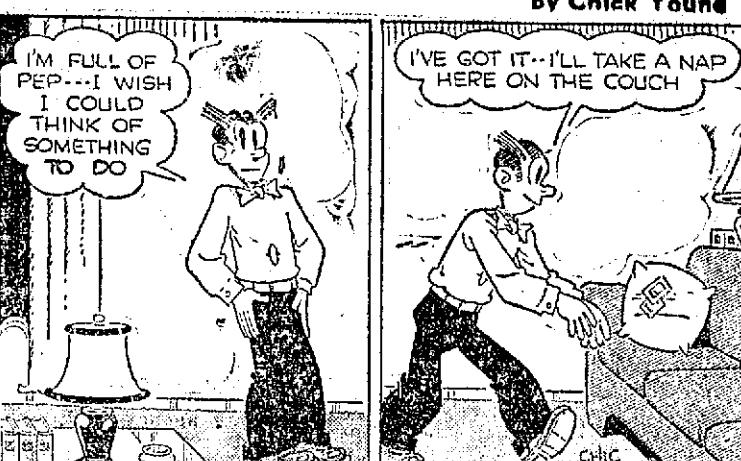
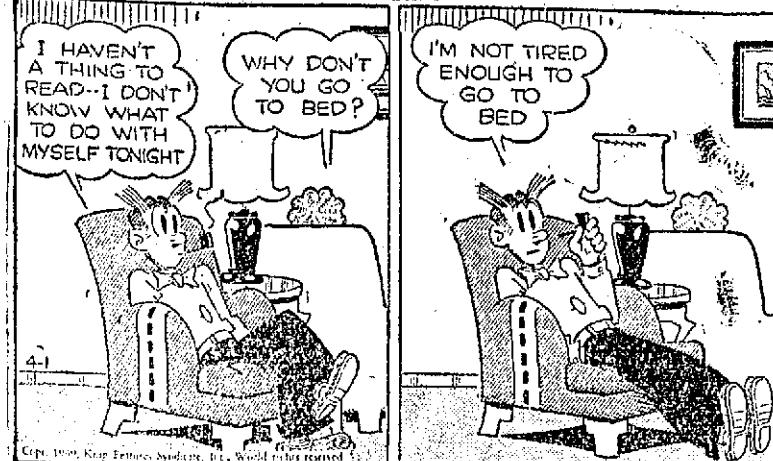
In it he wrote: "I've done something that's nobody's business but myself. I feel that everyone will be better off without me."

Adman was an imaginary substance, either a metal or a stone, which the ancients believed was of impenetrable hardness.

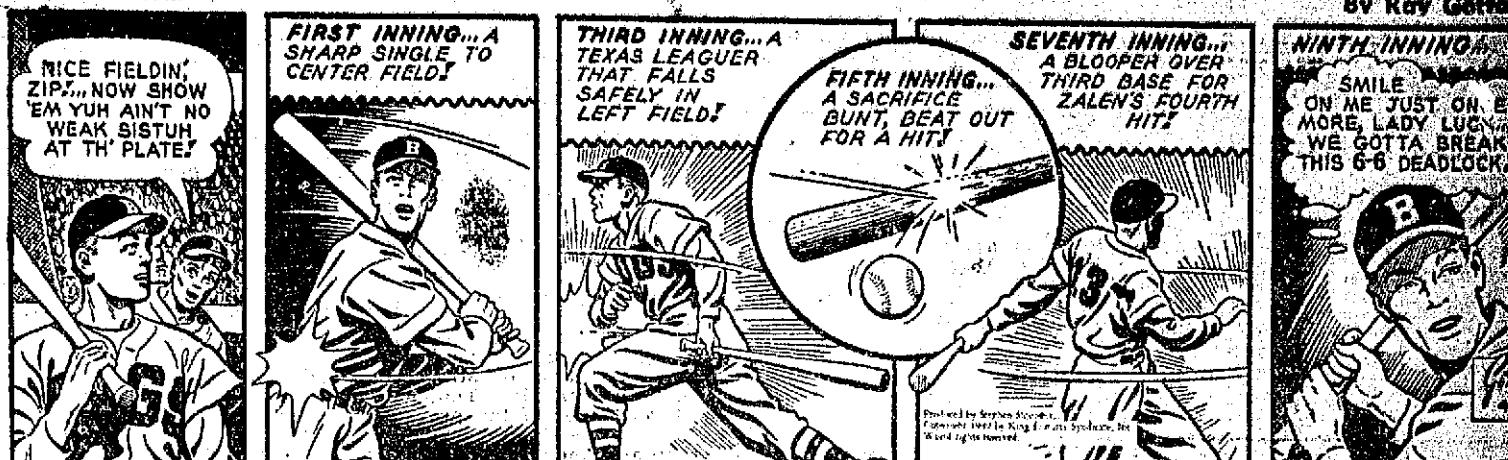
Repair work being done on the executive mansion preclude its re-



## BLONDIE



## OZARK IKE



By Roy Gott

ON ME JUST OH MORE LADY LUCK WE GOTTA BREAK THIS G-G DEADLOCK

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



## CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner

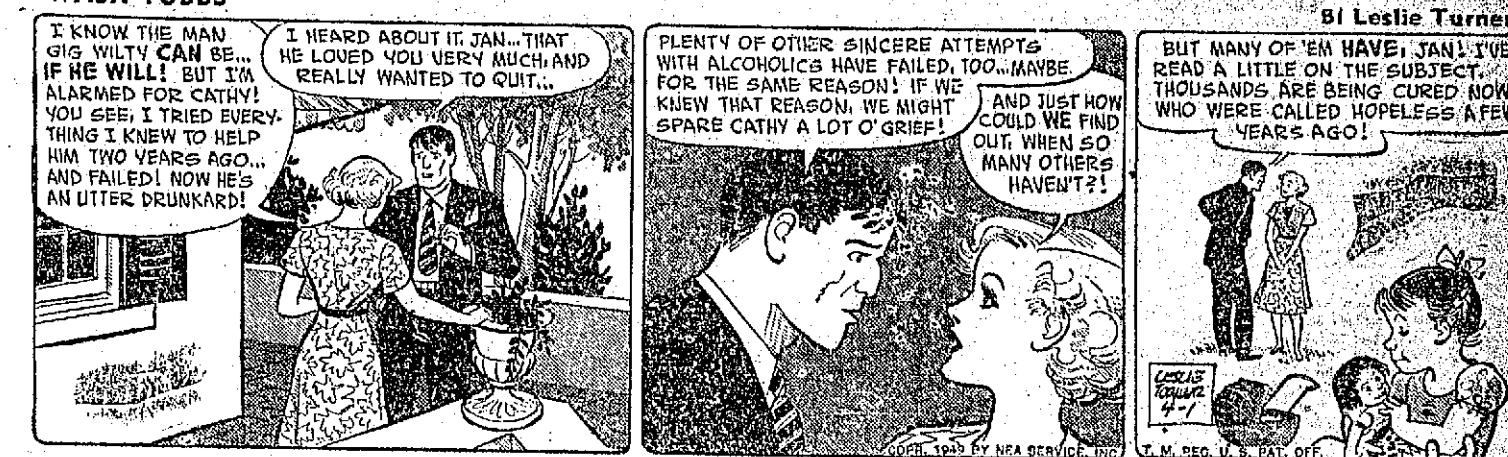


## VIC FLINT



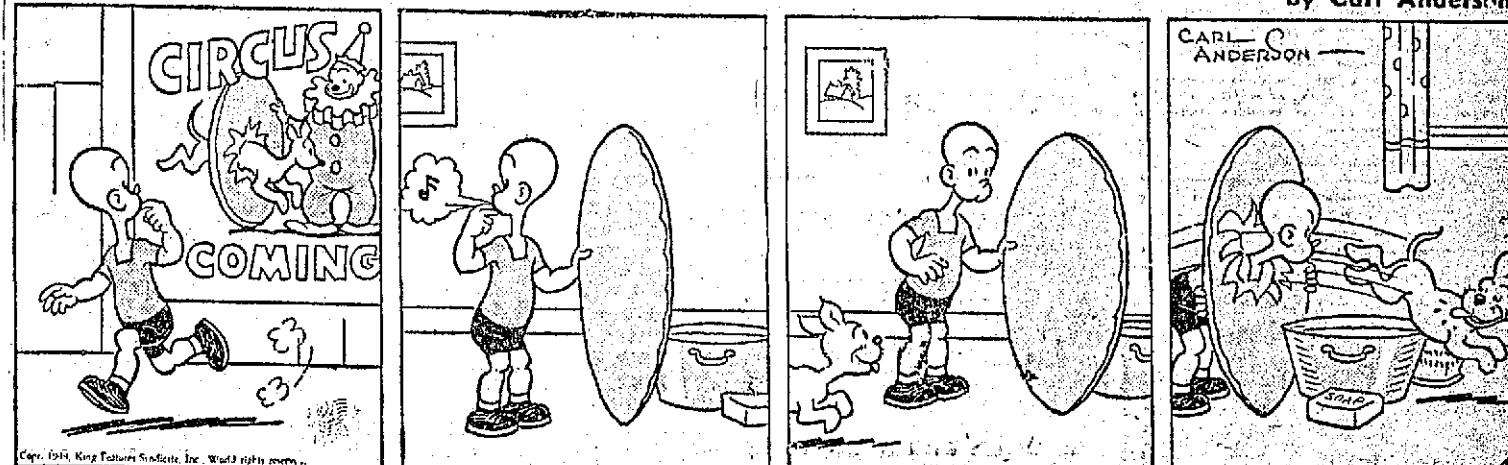
By Michael O'Malley &amp; Ralph Lane

## WASH TUBBS



By Leslie Turner

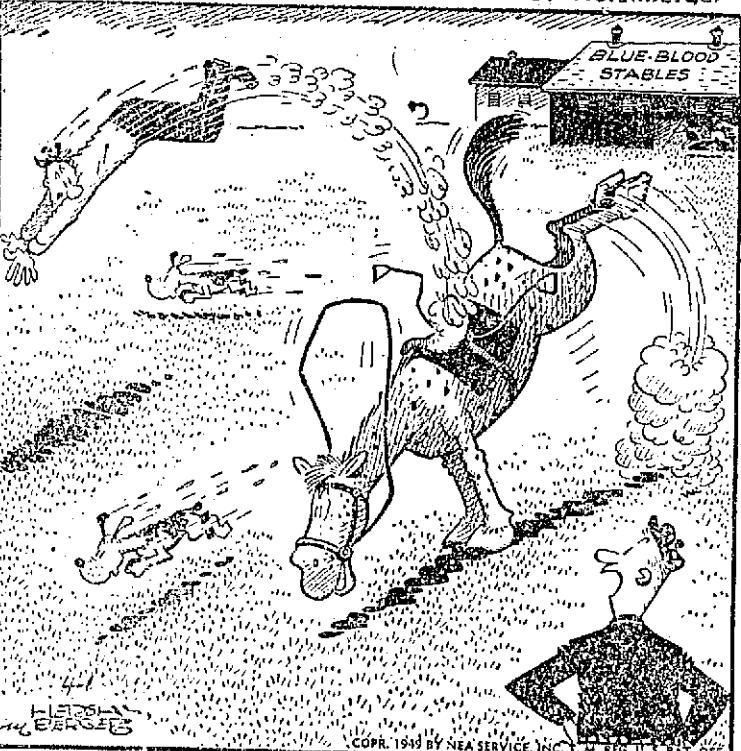
## HENRY



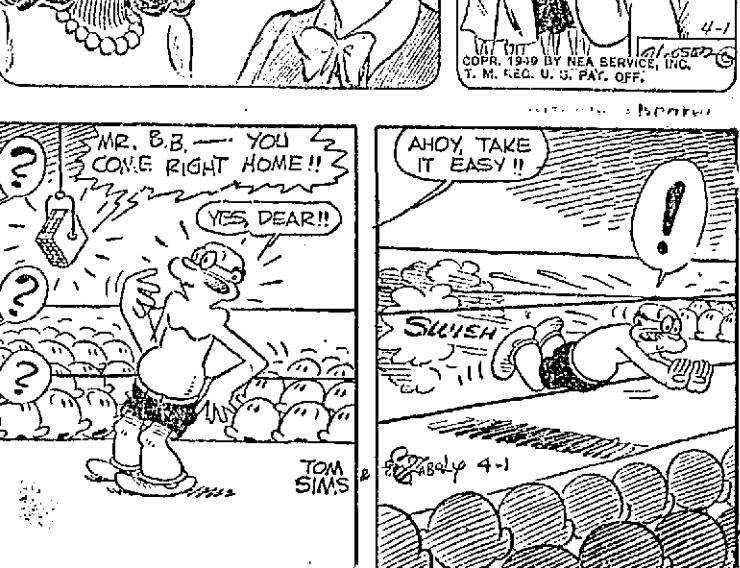
By Carl Anderson

## FUNKY BUSINESS

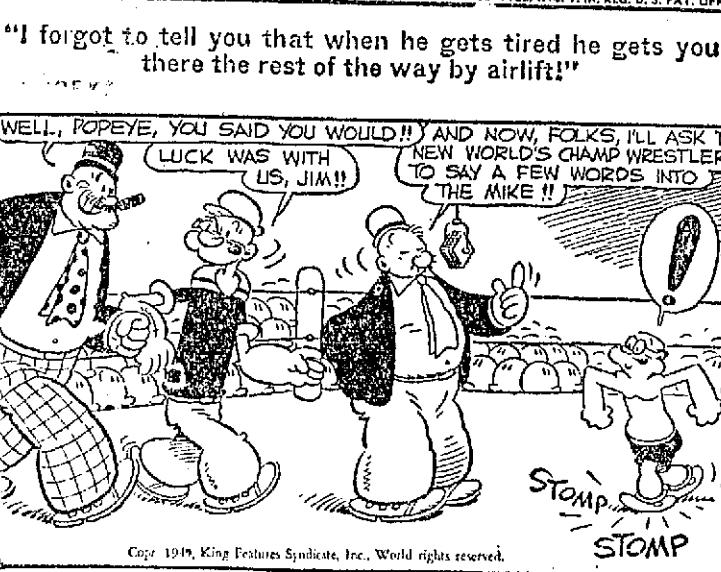
By Mervin Berger



By Blosser



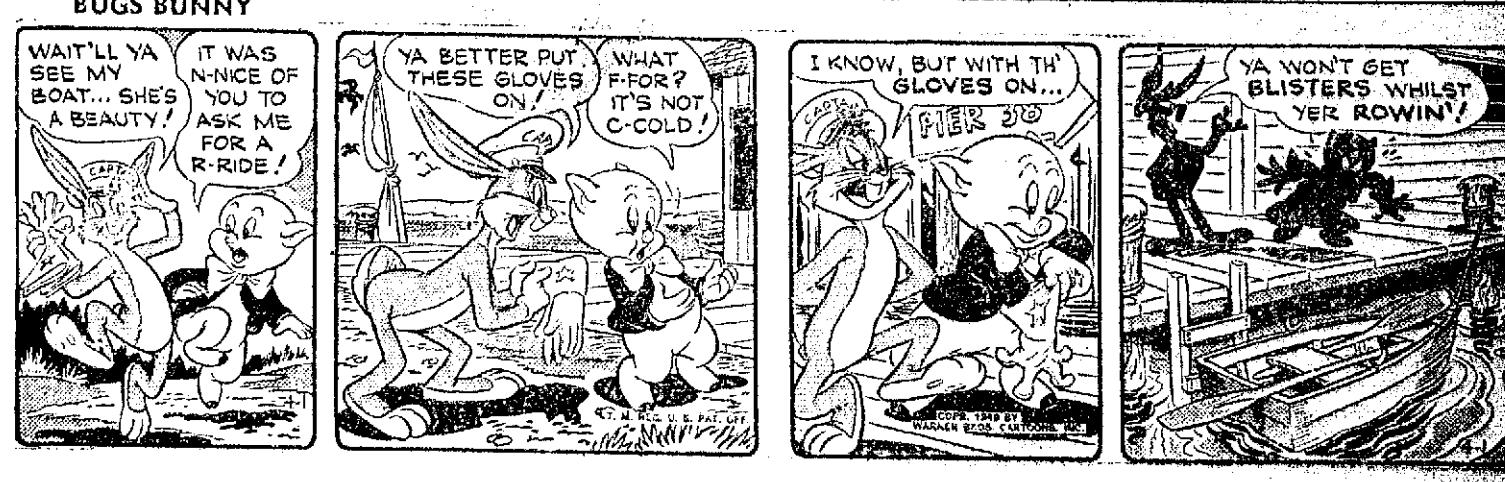
By Walt Disney



By Eugene Ahrens



THE ELBOW GREASE



By Chuck Jones

